NEWSLETTER

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

September 10, 1973

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Pat Jackler is still out recuperating from her surgery but expects to be back to work on October 1 if everything continues to go well.

In four more weeks the Business Office will have four darling kittens needing good homes. Ray Ramos and Chuck Hewitt have already gotten their orders in so don't delay for the kitten of your choice.

Most of you probably know that there is a nationwide paper shortage. The County will be receiving less than half the amount of paper ordinarily used. Therefore, we are asking all Department employees to conserve paper in every possible way. Please begin using both sides of the sheet, use half sheets when possible, make fewer copies, etc. A memo suggesting other ways to conserve paper is forthcoming.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

The reorganized safety committee met on August 14 to discuss methods of promoting employee participation in the safety program.

The first phase of the program will be to establish methods of communication between safety observers and committee members. We anticipate that the communication process will bring about an understanding and appreciation that will help all employees deal more effectively with the human factors involved in accident prevention.

Safety representatives are Joe Erby, Committee Chairman; Chuck Hewitt, Billy Hawks, Ken Tokushige, and Calvin Allen.

The committee plans on having an active program towards the reduction of accidents. Should any members of the staff have thoughts on how safety can be improved or have knowledge of hazardous conditions, please notify any of the committee members.

There will be an Arboretum Division staff meeting featuring safety on September 19 at 10 a.m. in the Lecture Hall. Members of the Department of Personnel Occupational Health Staff will discuss hearing loss as an occupational hazard. All divisions of the department are invited to participate in this meeting.

DESCANSO GARDENS DIVISION

The La Canada Players put on a series of playlets August 11 and 12 for little children. There were more than 500 kids for each day's performance.

August was quite cool at Descanso Gardens. We did not experience a single hot day. The cool temperatures for most of August seem to make the color among the annual bedding plants more beautiful than ever before. There are massive plants of marigolds, impatiens, and vinca in full bloom at present.

Don Graf is coming along nicely after his illness that took place while he was vacationing in the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

George Lewis is back to work after three weeks' vacation in the Lake Tahoe area and Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Bill Outwin is on a fishing trip while vacationing in Canada. Mark Anthony is vacationing somewhere in Northern California.

The voice of Descanso Gardens, Fran Raitt, will be retiring officially September 14. The County Mechanical Department has rebuilt the lathhouse at Descanso Gardens. It is entirely new.

The Great Blue Heron has returned to Descanso Gardens.

EDUCATION DIVISION

For the first time Adult Education is scheduling an evening class at SCBG. This is

possible because a professional guard enrolled in Ben Suzuki's Bonsai class has volunteered for guard duty on class nights.

The Department was well represented at the AABGA meeting at Santa Barbara Sept. 7. Subject: Education in Botanic Gardens. The Education Division and Public Services Division contributed a 5-page resume of our educational services to participants from other California botanic gardens.

The Plant Science Library remained open throughout August with no staff! Las Voluntarias came in on half day shifts and did a very creditable job for patrons in the reading room. Eileen Hume took on the office work as well. A very orderly library greeted Ruth Taylor on her return from a month's vacation in Europe.

Rita Williamson is on a month's vacation celebrating her recent marriage.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

This is back-to-school time which for this Division means preparing for the fall school field studies program. This involves working out schedules with approximately 75 school districts and conducting a seven-week training program for new field leader volunteers. Volunteers are needed at each of our gardens in a variety of capacities, so if you know women with some free time who are interested in education, nature, gardening, and children we suggest you invite them to make their interest known to the following people: Volunteers interested in serving as school field study leaders at South Coast should call Doris Bowers at 377-3546, afternoons and evenings. At Descanso they should call Mrs. Tove Toft at 790-6545. At the Arboretum, prospective field leaders should call Dave Fields at the gatehouse; volunteers interested in working at the gift shop or who have skills in making handcrafted gift items - terrariums and the like - should call Dolores Hubbell at the gift shop.

RESEARCH DIVISION

Callistemons (bottle-brushes) are among the most commonly cultivated introduced ornamental plants in California. Over 100 accessions are planted on the Arboretum grounds. Carlos Jativa is at present studying this genus botanically and horticulturally. The bark of these trees has been found to be a good identification characteristic for some species, and it is at present being scrutinized for clues to the understanding of the taxonomic and phylogenetic relationship of the species in this genus. The bark of mature specimens can either persist or exfoliate. The bark pattern of individual groups of species can be placed into four main groups: (1) reticulate, (2) stringy, (3) flaky, and (4) papery. An exhibit of herbarium specimens and close-up photographs of these four different types of bark patterns, with examples of species included under each group, can be seen in the Research Laboratory.

August is the off-month for most members of the Research Division; some are on vacation and some are attending meetings.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Welcome back to vacationers Ed Hartnagle - from London, Paris, and Ireland - and Eric Brooks - from Ecuador. Leaving for India is Mike Thorne. So much for our international set.

This month a horticulturally-minded visitor will see the garden in full color: marigolds, chrysanthemums, and the everready Hibiscus sinensis and Lagunaria patersonii which brighten things up.

Other flowering plants:

Polygala apopetala
Erythrina humeana
Cassia leptophylla
Parkinsonia aculeata